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#5011-z
HORACE K. FORD PAPERS

Letters, 1862-1863

Folder 1 of 1

Newbern Oct 19th 1862

My Dear Wife & Daughter

It is with great pleasure I take this opertunity to write you a few lines to inform you of my health and prosperity I can say that I think my health is as good as it ever was and I hope to remain so and think if the weather remains cool that it will be healthy it is very pleasant here now just about such weather as September there there has been no frost yet but the weather is cool and bracing the men are less sick so that now there was so few that the well ones had to go on guard every second day now only once in four days so it is easier for us that have the duty to do, We dont have much here that looks like Sunday we have our regular drills and inspections have just come in from regimental inspection and just preparing to go on dress parade which

we have to do every evening but the inspection comes off only every Sunday in both cases we have to put on our putties or best clothes of which I'll tell you something we have two suits our common suit is light blue pants and dark blue blouse a sort of jacket about as long as possible without siting upon it, and the best suit is same kind of pants only new and clean and the coat is dark blue frock coat all with brass buttons our caps are such as you see the soldiers there wear of a dark blue, our arms are the German rifle musket a very good article, use a ball or slug picked on the front end,

Thursday 23d As the mail has just arrived and I received your No 16. I thought I would continue this to the end, was glad to hear from you hope you will continue in good health and keep in good spirits the reason I postponed the continuation of these lines so long is that I have been at work blacking up the equipments for the company it is quite a job will take me as much as two days more it is very hard work shall be glad to get through with the job but as I am as well as ever I think I can stand it I was sorry you did'nt receive word in time to send my under shirts as the weather is quite cool and I need them considerable but never mind you have a good chance too send them with some one else if you do you may send them I will send the money for a half of a dollars worth of postage stamps you may send them as soon as you get this for I am all out If you have a chance you may send me some paper & envelopes as I am get quite short of those articles, In answer to your query as to how I am situated I'll say I am in the same place and as pleasantly as usualy dont know how it will be but hope the thing won't last long

want you to write what the people around you there thinks of it write all the news and as often as you can as I have found this to be the best way to bring enjoyment and contentment to the mind while seperated from each other
I found you understood my wants by sending this sheets of paper which with the one I found yesterday and two or 3 I have left will keep me for quite a while but on this letter I send the last stamp so that I shall depend upon borrowing untile I hear from this
Tell Celia that kiss was a first rate one but should rather have one in reality and hope the time wont be long when the enjoyment will be mine, hoping this will find you well I stop for the present
This is from your affectionate
Husband & Father

H. H. Ford

Isabelle's
great Grandfather
& Grandmother

10-19-1862

Mrs. Horace H. Ford

Strafford Corner

Horace K. Ford
Horace C. Ford
Helen Ford (mother) Noon
Isabelle Noon, Felker, Hall

N. H.

I have received your letter today
No 20 Newbern Dec. 22d 1862
My Dear Wife & Daughter
With pleasure I
received your No 20 today was
glad to hear from you again
that you were prospering so well
hope you will continue in good
health, This leaves me not as
well as usual my own plaint
is very bad bowel complaint it
has got to be quite sore and
pimpels but I am in hopes to get
rid of it soon remain at the
Hospital yet and I think as the
folks do that it is best for me
to remain here at present and until
I get well I dont intend to leave
the place if I can help it
I wrote in my last that the regiment had gone on an expedition just
after I closed your letter they returned
and were cut up pretty bad some 15
of them were wounded some of them
pretty badly some of them lost a leg
some an arm one of them that was shot

No 26 Newbern Dec. 22d 1862

My Dear Wife & Daughter

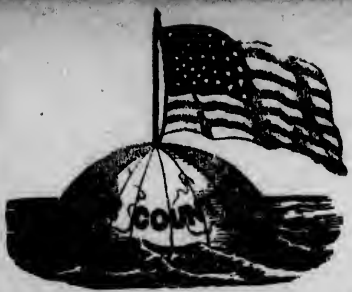
With pleasure I received your No 20 today was glad to hear from you again that you were prospering so well hope you will continue in good health, This leaves me not as well as usual my complaints is my bad bowel complaint it has got to be quite sore and pumped but am in hopes to get rid of it soon remain at the Hospital yet and I think as they folks do that it is best for me to remain here at present and until I get well I dont intend to leave this place if I can help it

I wrote in my last that the regiment had gone on an expedition just after I closed your letter they returned and were cut up pretty bad some of them were wounded some of them pretty badly some of them lost a leg some an arm one of them that was shot

I have received my pay up this month

I hope Celia will read this letter herself all through the Thanksgiving will come
directly through the heart and was
alive and walking around &c, they
were gone 10 days had a hard
time till seems that I was sorry
that I was here yet
you wrote about that chess and
currant wine and you said
you paied for half of the chess
but the currant wine was furnished
by Mrs Hoopes and that explaines
the subject unsatisfactorily for he
told me the wine was supplied
by both of you and was to be divi-
ded between us equaly and I
thought if that was so and I didnt
get but a quarter of the amount I
didnt consider it fair.
but the chess and other things was
all right with the exception of
the fruits in the first box and
he said it was all rotten which
I think likely was true as that in
this last was half decayed and it came
a great deal more carefully don't think of anything
more to write so I hang up again for a while
Give my love to all
Yours as Ever Horace K. Ford

Hagen, 315 Chestnut St., Phila



Shout prouder and louder, and longer and stronger,
The Union, the Union, again and again,
The Union forever, Amen.

13-22-1867

Mrs. Horace K. Fant
Rye Beach
N. H.

Newbern Feb 11th 1863.

Dear Wife & Daughter

It is with pleasure I embrace the present opportunity to write you a few lines by way of letting you know my prospects also to inform you that I received your No 25 to-day think they have come correct so far you write that you have not received my 23d it may come to light yet,

I was glad to hear from you that you were all well hope I may often hear the same as long as my services are require out here, I was glad to hear that Celia was a good girl hope she will continue so and be obedient and still so as to be of as little trouble as possible then I shall desire to go home to see her and will often think of her while I am here

my health is none of the best yet for I have the chills and fever every day and I had to go on guard day before yesterday and it was a hard job for me as I have had the fever and ague so long that my blood is very thin and I am very weak so it cramped me all up and I am so lame and sore as to be hardly able to move and I expect my turn will come again to-morrow and it looks likely to be foul weather and that makes it worse for me but I'll try to take it as easy as possible and endure it with as good courage as I can hoping that it cant last long dont think there is any thing new to interest you so I'll stop after wishing you good bye

P.S. I have just been out on brigade drill and time of it came in and another mail had arrived and I found a letter from Jacob he reports the folks all well

From your Ever affectionate Husband & Father Horace K. Ford

To S. J. & E. A. Ford & Co.

2-11-1843

Mrs. Horace K. Ford

Strafford Corner

N. H.

No 30

Newbern Feb. 15th 1863

My Dear Wife & Daughter

It is with a degree of pleasure that I take this opportunity to write you a few lines it being Sunday and rather raing at that my time is not entirely taken up so after finishing one to Tibbetts at Beaufort I thought I'd commence one for you although I dont know as it will interest you any, yet I thought it better than what those around me are doing for there is a number of crews around me here engaged gambling and swearing as much as if it wasn't Sunday realy we cant see much around us that that would remind one of the difference they dont conduct themselves better than they should on any other day surely

as my time comes to go on picket again tomorrow I guess I'll wait untill before writing more. Tuesday Feb. 17th have just come off picket had a hard time quite rainy was on the same dangerous post although we didnt see any rebels yet as it was a cold rain for this place it was quite uncomfortable and chilly we have to wear our over coats there when if we were there we should go in our shirt sleaves. Was glad to find on coming in to-day that there had a mail arived by which I received your No. 26th was glad to hear that you were all well. You speak of your strong wishes for me to try for a discharge it is not so easy to get as it has been sometimes and perhaps there may be such a chance again untill then I hope I may be able to stand it without danger

Wednesday 18th as it is a rainy day I thought I would write a few lines to fill up although I know of no news to write this morning went to the 43d Regt a few steps from here to see Mr. Fisher that used to go to our meeting he is a seargent in Co. K. of that regiment had a good sociable time found him well and enjoying himself first rate

Monday 23d Thinking the mail might close soon I thought I would try and prolong these crooked marks a little more since I wrote the commencement of this I have been on picket three times and still expected to do duty although I am sure I am not able yet there is so many that say a man is playing it if he reports sick or neglects to do his full duty so I hate to go

to the doctor as long as I can get around, In your last you tried to press me to try for a discharge but knowing it to be so hard to get at present I dont dare to apply for it there is times that one might not find half the trouble to get it as now so I dont think you had better think of my coming home for quite a while yet but hoping the time may soon come I think I'll try to keep up good courage and await with patience for something to turn up to bring me home and I hope you will do the same, there has been a very cold storm for a few days so cold that I cant keep warm any way It has cleared off this morning but is no warmer in these open buildings we cant help suffering especialy if their blood is so thin as mine is now as I have no more space to write I guess I'll stop hoping this will find you all well give my respects and love to all take a large share for your self and Celia

Truly Yours as Ever Horace H. Ford

When you write why not write a few words as I do and strive it so crowded as to make as long a letter from me as I expect from you

No 30th 2d Edition

Newbern Feb. 25th 1863

My Dear Wife & Daughter

as the mail has not closed yet and as by the mail of last evening I received your No 27 I thought I would write a few lines in answer and send it in the same envelope although I dont know of any thing new to write yet I thought it best to write a few lines by the way of keeping you posted as to the way we are getting along out here and I can say of myself that although I am some better yet I am not well and I expect as soon as it comes hot weather I shall be worse yet although you write again for me to get my discharge if possible I dont dare to ask

for it as it is a hard time to succeed yet the time may soon come when I can do so with more prospects of success which I hope I may be able to do before hot weather when it will be more sickly.
P.M. Have been on a general review from 9½ a.m. to 3 P.M. if it had been there I should like for you to have seen it I think there was 20 or more regiments and some 12,000 or 15,000 troops if it had been any where else it would have been a very grand sight Gen. Foster was in command in person and his staff some 30 or 40 officers on gaily caparisoned horses you should have seen them to know how they looked but I hope some time to have a chance to give a discription vocaly so no more now

Yours as Ever Horace K.

Mrs. Horace K. Ford

Strafford Corner

N. H.

8-15-1863

No 31

Camp near Newbern Sunday Mch 1st 63

Dear Wife & Daughter

I was with pleasure I received your No 28 to-day dated Feb 21st was glad to hear that you were all well and hope often to hear the same hope you are enjoying yourself and I should think you were by your writing about pancakes &c. it makes me think of things that I dont often get now or see them either as there is none here yet I hope soon to get where I can see them if I cant get them or dont feel like eating them I was on guard yesterday which was a very rainy day so that on my second beat from 5 to 7 P.M. I got wet all through and a chill came on so hard as the it was a cold stone some hail cold water trickled down my back so that I had to call for the Corporal

of the guard and got relieved got relieved by the doctor and turned in for the rest of the night and got warmed up and this morning the Doctor gave me some capsicums and I turned in for a sweat after which I feel some better this afternoon and I hope by taking care to be better hereafter for I feel some better yet I dread hot weather when I am afraid will be more unhealthy I hope this affair will close up soon and we permited to go home there is hardly any news to write so I guess I will close soon. Tell Celia to be a good girl for I feel better out here when I feel that she is a good girl, I am glad you think of me when you have your delicacies and nice things and hope soon to be permited to go there and feel like eating them and I think I can be contented with the fare but enough for this time will write more soon give my love and respects to all remembering to take a large share for your self and Celia

This is from your affectionate Husband and Father Horace H.

Last Thursday I received a letter from George & his wife also one from John H. Tell will answer them soon

No 38

Newbern April 15th 1863

My Dear Wife & Daughter

It is with pleasure I take my pen to write a few lines in answer to your No 34th dated 3 and 5th which I received this morning was glad to hear from you to hear hear that you were all well and geting along so well am glad to have the chance to announce to you that I am a great deal better was weighed yesterday weighed 149 pounds which is gaining pretty fast yet I dont gain much strength so I dont think it can last, my appitite is first rate so this accounts for my fleshing up so fast and

I am affraid there will be a relapse again as there was before and if so it may be worse yet hoping that it will turn out all right let us keep good courage. ——

About that Bromly I used to see him here but as he didnt seem to know me I thought I would nt trouble him with my aquaintance the truth of the matter is he was a rather fast boy and liked his whiskey and such have their mates but I suppose you remember I dont train in that company so they dont take any notice of me but this dont make me feel bad so I dont worry myself about it. —

You write about Mrs Stowell and Mrs Mitchell's circumstances you must also look out for yourself and shake the letters well that there may be no trouble and danger in handleing them but as you say I think there is enough of this kind of stuff, that is right I want you to pick up enough to fill good long letters of news in general as you call it. ——

No I have received any pay yet but I guess I wont send for any money for I think you must need what you get and as I have 4 cents in my pocket I'll try to make it last till pay day but I guess I shall have to send this without paying the postage as I have no stamp and cant get one easy so you will have to pay it. ——

dont work too hard now you have heels to make but take it easy and enjoy yourself the best you can

I have received papers about half of the time the Enquirer and Star and Jacob has sent me two tribunes and somebody has sent me two or three the flags am glad to receive them that I may hear the news yet I think if you have a chance you had better stop the Star if you can get the money as I cant afford to take it these times yet you may do as you please if you want to take it. — am glad to hear that Celia is a good girl and hope she will continue so and learn all she can tell her that was a nice letter she sent me this time and I want her to do so often want you to do the same, — Give my love & respects to all and take a share for yourselves. This is from your Ever affectionate Husband & Father

To S. F. & C. A. Ford

Horace K. Ford

4-15-1863

(Due 3)

Soldiers Letter
W P Colby
Chaplain 17 Mass R

Mrs. Horace K. Ford

Haverhill

Mass.

Cannonne Hospital Beaufort June 17th 63

Dear Jane & Celia

It is with pleasure I embrace this opportunity to write you a few lines as I have been waiting for a mail to bring me something but as it dont come and I have nothing to take up my attention but am very lonesome and dull- so I thought I would write you a few lines informing you of my condition &c. here. — Well I am here yet but I have not undertaken a job of duty yet as my back and limbs are so weak as to trouble me to get around but I hope to be better soon as I know I should feel better to be doing something light to take up some part of my time and as I dont think I shall be likely to get home before my time is out and it is reported that there is none to remain here on duty unless they join the invalid corps by existing for 3 years from this time so as to be detatched from the regiment which I dont think of doing. So probably when I am able I shall be sent to the regiment. — At any rate I have not made up my mind yet enlist over for a longer time than I am now holden for I shall expect you to say amen to that I will write and let you know when I find any thing else about this and let you know where I am and what I am doing.

Friday 19th I thought I would continue a few words in addition to what I had written before to inform you that I have taken a change

In this letter I send you some flower seeds I dont know the name of them but they are a quite pretty and I thought you might like them but to distinguish them we will call them Carolinia Holly as I think Holly is the name they go by

as I think it will be easier than anything else unless I get a chance as a clerk in some department to sit and write as there is a chance quite often I think I should like that as being easy and a chance to improve some which is quite desirable for one that can write no better than I can.

I received your No 46 — last night was glad to hear from you and to hear that you were well, You write that you have written to Col. Fellows about giving me a furlough which I hardly think would be policy as we have to pay our fare which would be quite an expence for so short a time of 20 days we cant count more than 10 days at home after taking out the voyage both ways and then it is said we cant expect to get a furlough from the Hospital as they dont give them I think if I could get one for 30 days I would take it and I spoke to Tibbetts about it and I think if we go we shall try to go together but I think as the time is wearing away it is best to not think of returning home until our time is out, I suppose before you get this Mr. Hobbs will be at home as I understand he has gone and I should like to have been with him but if some folks have luck still others have none and I think I am one of those but I think it is best to keep good courage and try for things to come out right, Tell Edia her letter was a first rate one and I am [illegible]

#5011-z
HORACE K. FORD PAPERS

Items separated

#5011-z
HORACE K. FORD PAPERS

Photograph

P-5011/1

William Henry
Jacob
Noah
Horace Kimball Ford

all Civil War Veterans.

Brothers.

Caspar

457 Essex St. cor. Hampshire
Lawrence, Mass.
356 Central Ave. Dover, N.H.